

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An orally deliverable pharmaceutical composition comprising a drug of low water solubility and a pregelatinized starch having low viscosity and/or exhibiting a multimodal particle size distribution.
2. The composition of Claim 1 that is in a form of a tablet or capsule.
3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the drug is a selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitory drug.
4. The composition of Claim 3 wherein the selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitory drug is selected from the group consisting of celecoxib, deracoxib, valdecoxib, rofecoxib, etoricoxib, 2-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-2-cyclopenten-1-one, 2-(3,4-difluorophenyl)-4-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl-1-butoxy)-5-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-3-(2H)-pyridazinone, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.
5. The composition of Claim 3 wherein the selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitory drug is valdecoxib.
6. The composition of Claim 5 that is in the form of a tablet or capsule, wherein the valdecoxib is present in an amount of about 1 mg to about 100 mg.
7. The composition of Claim 6 wherein the valdecoxib is present in an amount of about 5 mg to about 40 mg.
8. The composition of Claim 5 wherein the valdecoxib has a D<sub>90</sub> particle size less than about 75 µm.
9. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the pregelatinized starch exhibits a shear stress of not more than about 1 Pa at a shear rate of 20 s<sup>-1</sup>.
10. The composition of Claim 9 wherein the pregelatinized starch further exhibits a shear stress of not more than about 2 Pa at a shear rate of 60 s<sup>-1</sup>.
11. The composition of Claim 10 wherein the pregelatinized starch further exhibits a shear stress of not more than about 3 Pa at a shear rate of 100 s<sup>-1</sup>.
12. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the pregelatinized starch exhibits a shear stress

- of not more than about 0.75 Pa at a shear rate of 20 s<sup>-1</sup>.
13. The composition of Claim 12 wherein the pregelatinized starch further exhibits a shear stress of not more than about 1.5 Pa at a shear rate of 60 s<sup>-1</sup>.
  14. The composition of Claim 13 wherein the pregelatinized starch further exhibits a shear stress of not more than about 2.5 Pa at a shear rate of 100 s<sup>-1</sup>.
  15. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the pregelatinized starch exhibits a shear stress of not more than about 0.5 Pa at a shear rate of 20 s<sup>-1</sup>.
  16. The composition of Claim 15 wherein the pregelatinized starch further exhibits a shear stress of not more than about 1 Pa at a shear rate of 60 s<sup>-1</sup>.
  17. The composition of Claim 16 wherein the pregelatinized starch further exhibits a shear stress of not more than about 1.5 Pa at a shear rate of 100 s<sup>-1</sup>.
  18. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the pregelatinized starch exhibits a multimodal particle size distribution.
  19. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the pregelatinized starch exhibits a bimodal particle size distribution.
  20. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the starch is present in an amount of about 1% to about 50% by weight of the composition.
  21. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the starch is present in an amount of about 2.5% to about 30% by weight of the composition.
  22. The composition of Claim 1 that is in a form of a tablet, further comprising one or more diluents in an amount of about 5% to about 99%, one or more disintegrants in an amount of about 0.2% to about 30%, and one or more lubricants in an amount of about 0.1% to about 10%, by weight of the composition.
  23. The composition of Claim 1 that is in a form of a tablet, further comprising one or more excipients selected from the group consisting of lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium and magnesium stearate.
  24. A process for preparing an orally deliverable pharmaceutical composition, the process comprising a step of selecting a pregelatinized starch having low viscosity

and/or exhibiting a multimodal particle size profile, and a step of admixing the selected pregelatinized starch with a drug of low water solubility to provide an admixture.

25. The process of Claim 24 wherein the drug is a selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitory drug.
26. The process of Claim 25 wherein the selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitory drug is valdecoxib.
27. The process of Claim 24, further comprising a step of wet granulating the admixture with one or more diluents, a step of drying the resulting granules, and a step of compressing the resulting dry granules to form a tablet.
28. A method of improving drug release rate consistency among pharmaceutical tablets prepared within a single manufacturing campaign, said tablets comprising pregelatinized starch and a drug having low water solubility, wherein the method comprises a step of selecting, for use in said tablets, a pregelatinized starch having low viscosity and/or exhibiting a multimodal particle size distribution.
29. A method of treating a medical condition or disorder in a subject where treatment with a cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor is indicated, the method comprising orally administering to the subject a composition of Claim 3 once or twice a day.